

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Applicants appreciate the allowance of Claims 1-18. Applicants have amended Claim 19. Claims 1-19 are currently pending.

CLAIMS REJECTION – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Independent Claim 19

Claim 19 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by United States Published Patent Application No. 2002/0121784 in the name of Chevalier (hereinafter “Chevalier”).

Amended Claim 19 specifies “rotation of the wheel in a first direction causing the actuator portion to engage the pawl cam surface and move the pawl from the first position to the second position, the wheel continuing to rotate in the first direction until the actuator portion is no longer engaged with the pawl cam surface.”

Chevalier discloses a number of latch apparatuses and methods. However, only the latch illustrated in Figure 18B has a rotary member 50 with a cam pin 30 that acts directly on a pawl 20 and an extension 37 of a latch bolt 11. When the rotary member 50 is moved in a first direction D1 (clockwise), the cam pin 30 contacts the extension 37 and moves the extension 37 from position A to position B. When the extension 37 is in position B, the latch bolt 11 contacts a striker 10 and cannot move further. From this position, the cam pin 30 can only move in a second direction D2 (counterclockwise). *Chevalier*, paragraphs 97-98, Figure 18B.

If the latch bolt 11 is the “catch,” the extension 37 is the “catch cam surface,” the rotary member 50 is the “actuator wheel,” and the cam pin 30 is the “actuator portion,” the rotary member 50 cannot continue to rotate in the direction D1 (the first direction) until the cam pin 30 is no longer engaged with the extension 37. Rather, once the cam pin 30 engages the extension 37 of the latch bolt 11, the rotary member 50 moves the extension 37 from position A to position

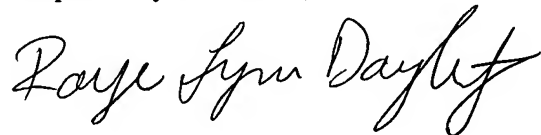
B, but is then prevented from continuing to rotate in the direction D1 (the first direction). The rotary member 50 is prevented from continuing to rotate, because the latch bolt 11 contacts the striker 10. From this position, the rotary member 50 can only rotate in the second direction D2 (counterclockwise). *Chevalier*, paragraphs 97-98, Figure 18B.

Accordingly, *Chevalier* does not disclose "rotation of the wheel in a first direction causing the actuator portion to engage the pawl cam surface and move the pawl from the first position to the second position, the wheel continuing to rotate in the first direction until the actuator portion is no longer engaged with the pawl cam surface," as specified by amended Claim 19. Therefore, independent Claim 19 is allowable.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of pending Claims 1-19.

Respectfully submitted,



Raye L. Daugherty
Reg. No. 47,933

File No. 087801-9315-00
Michael Best & Friedrich LLP
100 East Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202-4108
(414) 271-6560